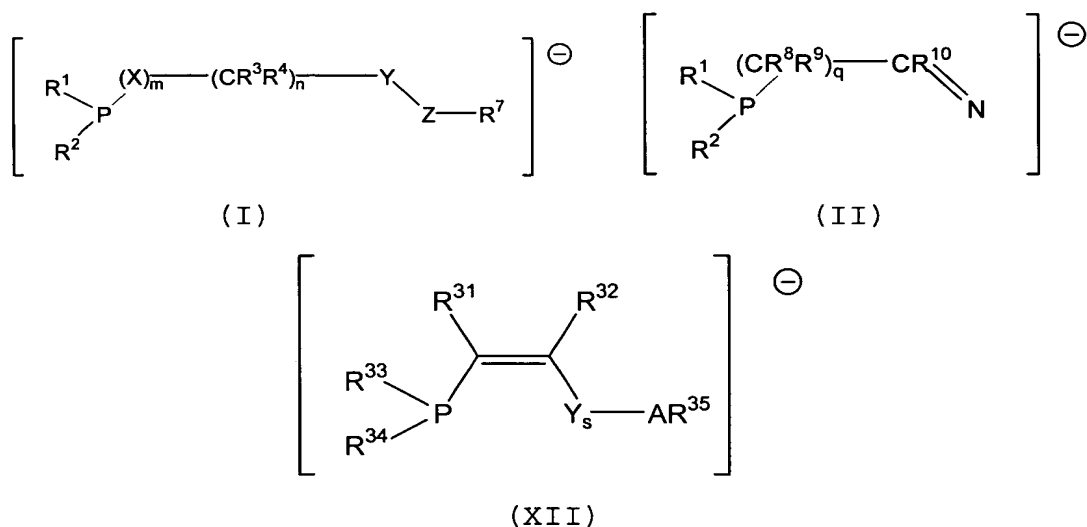


Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A process for the polymerization of olefins, comprising the step of contacting, at a temperature of about -100°C to about +200°C, at least one polymerizable olefin with an active polymerization catalyst comprising a Group 3 through 11 (IUPAC) transition metal or a lanthanide metal complex of a ligand of the formula (I), (II) or (XII)



wherein:

R¹ and R² are each independently hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

Y is CR¹¹R¹², S(T), S(T)₂, P(T)Q, NR³⁶ or NR³⁶NR³⁶;

X is O, CR⁵R⁶ or NR⁵;

A is O, S, Se, N, P or As;

Z is O, Se, N, P or As;

each Q is independently hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R⁷ is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, provided that when Z is O or Se, R⁷ is not present;

R⁸ and R⁹ are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R^{10} is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;
each T is independently =O or =NR³⁰;

R^{30} is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R^{31} and R^{32} are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R^{33} and R^{34} are each independently hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, provided that each is independently an aryl substituted in at least one position vicinal to the free bond of the aryl group, or each independently has an E_s of -1.0 or less;

R^{35} is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, provided that when A is O, S or Se, R^{35} is not present;

each R^{36} is independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

m is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1; and

q is 0 or 1;

and provided that:

any two of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} and R^{12} bonded to the same carbon atom taken together may form a functional group;

any two of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{31} , R^{32} , R^{33} , R^{34} , R^{35} and R^{36} bonded to the same atom or vicinal to one another taken together may form a ring; and

when said ligand is (I), Y is C(O), Z is O, and R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrocarbyl, then R^1 and R^2 are each independently an aryl substituted in one position vicinal to the free bond of the aryl group, or R^1 and R^2 each independently have an E_s of -1.0 or less.

2. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein said transition metal is Ni, Pd, Pt, Fe, Co, Ti, Zr, V, Hf, Cr or Cu.

3. (original) The process of claim 2, wherein said transition metal is Ni, Pd, Ti or Zr.

4. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the ligand is (I) and:

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R¹² is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Ti, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R¹² is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Zr, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R¹² is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ is hydrogen, R¹² is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and Z is N; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are oxo, and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are oxo, and Z is N; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =O and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =N-silyl, Z is N and R⁷ is silyl; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =O, Z is N, and R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl; or

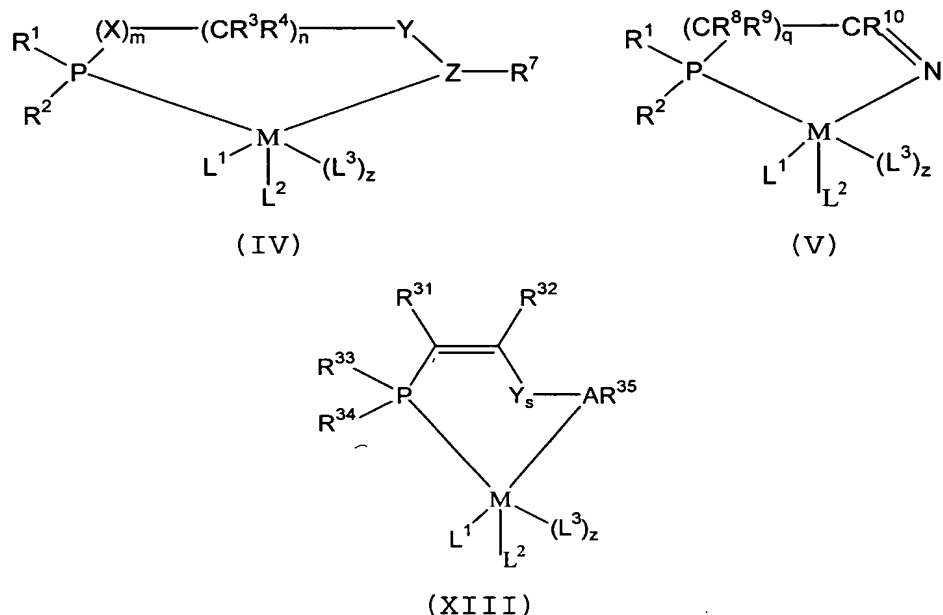
the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are a ring and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are N-hydrocarbyl- or N-substituted hydrocarbylimino, Z is N and R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =O and Z is O; or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are sulfo, Z is N and R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl.

5. (currently amended) A process for the polymerization of olefins, comprising the step of contacting, at a temperature of about -100°C to about +200°C, at least one polymerizable olefin with a compound of the formula (IV), (V) or (XIII)



wherein:

R¹ and R² are each independently hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

Y is CR¹¹R¹², S(T), ~~S(T)~~₂, P(T)Q, NR³⁶ or NR³⁶NR³⁶;

X is O, CR⁵R⁶ or NR⁵;

A is O, S, Se, N, P or As;

Z is O, Se, N, P or As;

each Q is independently hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R⁷ is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, provided that when Z is O or Se, R⁷ is not present;

R^8 and R^9 are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R^{10} is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;
each T is independently =O or =NR³⁰;

R^{30} is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R^{31} and R^{32} are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

R^{33} and R^{34} are each independently hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, provided that each is independently an aryl substituted in at least one position vicinal to the free bond of the aryl group, or each independently has an E_s of -1.0 or less;

R^{35} is hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, provided that when A is O, S or Se, R^{35} is not present;

each R^{36} is independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group;

m is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1; and

q is 0 or 1;

M is a Group 3 through Group 11 transition metal or a lanthanide metal; and

L^1 is a monodentate monoanionic ligand into which an ethylene molecule may insert between L^1 and M, and L^2 is a monodentate neutral ligand which may be displaced by ethylene or an empty coordination site, or L^1 and L^2 taken together are a monoanionic bidentate ligand into which ethylene may insert between said monoanionic bidentate ligand and said nickel atom, and each L^3 is independently a monoanionic ligand and z is the oxidation state of M minus 2;
and provided that;

any two of R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} and R^{12} bonded to the same carbon atom taken together may form a functional group;

any two of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{31} , R^{32} , R^{33} , R^{34} , R^{35} and R^{36} bonded to the same atom or vicinal to one another taken together may form a ring; and

when said compound is (IV), Y is C(O), Z is O, and R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrocarbyl, then R^1 and R^2 are each independently an aryl

substituted in one position vicinal to the free bond of the aryl group, or R^1 and R^2 each independently have an E_s of -1.0 or less.

6. (original) The process of claim 5, wherein M is Ni, Pd, Pt, Fe, Co, Ti, Zr, V, Hf, Cr or Cu.

7. (original) The process of claim 6, wherein M is Ni, Pd, Ti or Zr.

8. (original) The process of claim 5, wherein the compound is (IV) and:

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, R^{11} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R^{12} is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, and Z is O; or

M is Ti, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, R^{11} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R^{12} is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, and Z is O; or

M is Zr, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, R^{11} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R^{12} is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group, and Z is O; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, R^7 is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, Y is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, R^{11} is hydrogen, R^{12} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and Z is N; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, R^{11} and R^{12} taken together are oxo, and Z is O; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, R^7 is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, Y is $CR^{11}R^{12}$, R^{11} and R^{12} taken together are oxo, and Z is N; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =O and Z is O; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =N-silyl, Z is N and R^7 is silyl; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =O, Z is N, and R^7 is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are a ring and Z is O; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are N-hydrocarbyl- or N-substituted hydrocarbylimino, Z is N and R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl; or

M is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is S(T), T is =O and Z is O;
or

the transition metal is Ni, m is 0, n is 1, R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen, Y is CR¹¹R¹², R¹¹ and R¹² taken together are sulfo, Z is N and R⁷ is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl.

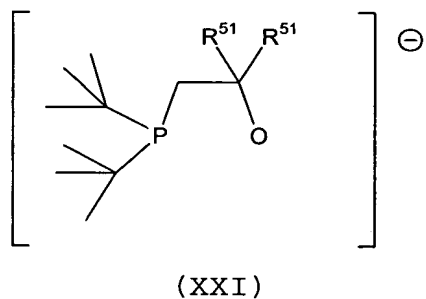
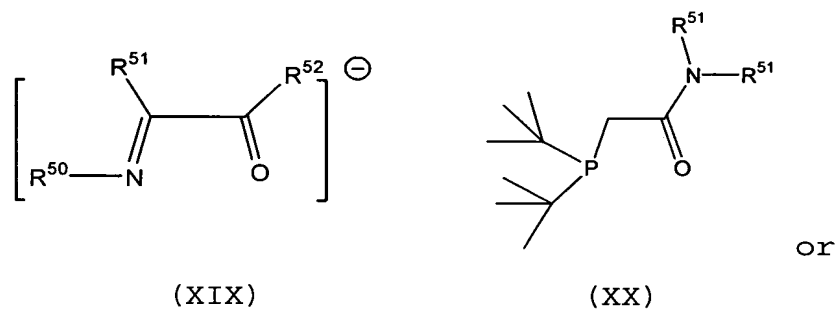
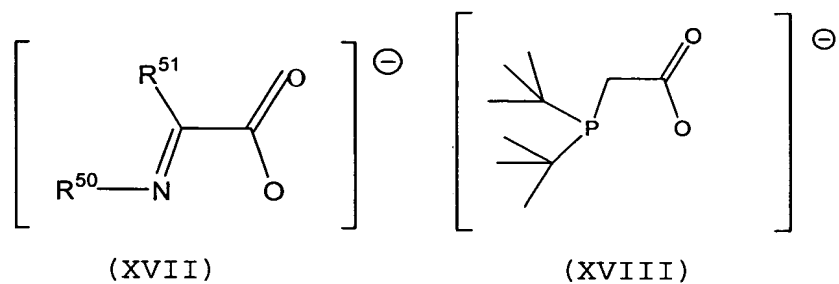
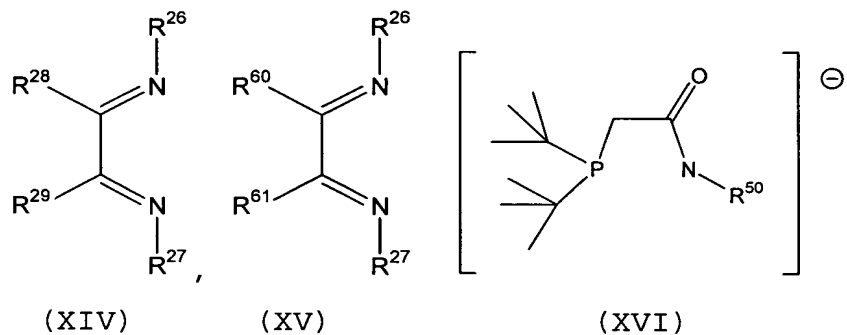
Claims 9-11 (canceled).

12. (withdrawn) A process for forming an ethylene/polar monomer copolymer, comprising the step of contacting, under polymerizing conditions, a nickel complex of a bidentate neutral ligand or a bidentate monoanionic ligand, with a monomer component comprising one or more hydrocarbon olefins and one or more polar comonomers (and other optional components such as, for example, one or more cocatalysts and/or other additives), at a temperature of about 60°C to about 170°C, provided that when CO is present, at least one other polar monomer is present.

13. (withdrawn) The process of claim 12, wherein ethylene is present and an ethylene partial pressure of at least about 0.67 MPa is used.

14. (withdrawn) The process of claim 12, wherein said one or more polar comonomers comprises H₂C=CHR²⁰C(O)Y, or H₂C=CR²⁵C(O)Y, wherein R²⁰ is alkylene or substituted alkylene, R²⁵ is hydrogen, and Y is -OH, -NR²¹R²², -OR²³, or -SR²⁴, wherein R²¹ and R²² are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, R²³ and R²⁴ are each hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl.

15. (withdrawn) The process of claim 12, wherein said bidentate ligand is



wherein:

R^{26} and R^{27} are each independently hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, provided that the carbon atom bound to the imino nitrogen atom has at least two carbon atoms bound to it;

R^{28} and R^{29} are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, or R^{28} and R^{29} taken together are hydrocarbylene or substituted hydrocarbylene to form a carbocyclic ring;

R^{60} and R^{61} are each independently functional groups bound to the rest of (XV) through heteroatoms (for example O, S or N), or R^{60} and R^{61} (still containing their heteroatoms) taken together form a ring.

each R^{50} is independently hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl;

each R^{51} is independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl;

and

each R^{52} is hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, hydrocarbyloxy, or substituted hydrocarbyloxy.

Claims 16-18 (canceled).